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Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 DOEE-00 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-02
TRSE-00 H-02 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00
NSF-02 OES-07 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /188 W
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O 121331Z APR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8255
LOS COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY SUVA

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ADVISE D/LOS ON RECEIPT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PLOS
SUBJECT: LOS CONFERENCE: GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 10

REF: GENEVA 5341

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE GENERAL COMMITTEE MET ON APRIL 10 TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS ON THE PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION OF THE SEVENTH SESSION. THE BRIEF MORNING MEETING WAS DELAYED BY PROLONGATION OF A G-77 CAUCUS AND WAS ENDED SHORTLY AFTER COMMENCEMENT BY OBJECTION OVER A MISSING G-77 PAPER AND THE LACK OF PROPOSALS IN ALL THE WORKING LANGUAGES. THE AFTERNOON SESSION DISCUSSED VARIOUS PROPOSALS ON ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES. AMERASINGHE WILL NOW PREPARE A SYNTHESIZED REPORT OF SPECIFIC
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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 11. END SUMMARY.

1. A LONG G-77 CAUCUS DELAYED THE OPENING OF THE MORNING GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING. UPON COMMENCEMENT, SEVERAL STATES OBJECTED TO THE FAILURE OF THE LOS SECRETARIAT TO CIRCULATE THE G-77 PROPOSAL (ON PROCEDURES

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AND ORGANIZATION) AS AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT. THIS CRI-
TICISM WAS FOLLOWED BY A SOVIET INTERVENTION PROTESTING
THE LACK OF RUSSIAN LANGUAGE VERSIONS OF THE DOCUMENTS
TO BE DISCUSSED. (NEITHER RUSSIAN NOR CHINESE TRANS-
LATIONS WERE READY.) THE PRC DELEGATE, HOWEVER, SAID
HIS DELEGATION HAD NO OBJECTION TO CONTINUING THE
MEETING USING ENGLISH DOCUMENTS. SINGAPORE, AND
SEVERAL OTHERS, OBJECTED TO THE LOS SECRETARIAT'S FAILURE
TO CIRCULATE THE G-77 PAPER ON PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION.
IN VIEW OF THE SOVIET DEMARCHE AND THE ABSENCE OF THE
G-77 PAPER, AMERASINGHE ADJOURNED THE MEETING UNTIL THE
AFTERNOON.

2. AT THE LATER SESSION, AMERASINGHE CLARIFIED HIS VIEW
OF THE ROLE OF THE MAIN COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN. HE SAID IT
HAD ALWAYS BEEN HIS INTENTION TO INCLUDE THE CHAIRMEN
IN THE WORK. WHEN THE RESULTS OF THE SPECIAL NEGOTIATING
GROUPS (TO BE APPOINTED) ARE REPORTED TO THE APPROPRIATE
COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND THE PRESIDENT, AND BEFORE THE
WORK WOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE PLENARY, THE PRESIDENT WOULD
CONSULT WITH THE CHAIRMEN ON WHAT TO DO. AMERASINGHE
ADDED THAT THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MIGHT WISH TO HAVE HIS
COMMITTEE CONSIDER THE RESULTS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE
BRINGING THEM TO THE PLENARY OR THE RESULTS COULD BE
BROUGHT DIRECTLY TO THE PLENARY BY THE PRESIDENT WHEN
THEY ARE REPORTED TO HIM. IF THE RESULTS ARE BROUGHT
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DIRECTLY TO THE PLENARY AFTER THEY ARE REPORTED TO THE
PRESIDENT, THE PLENARY COULD, AT ANY TIME, SEND ANY
PARTICULAR ISSUE BACK TO THE MAIN COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERA-
TION IF IT DEEMS FIT.

3. THE LL/GDS REPS AND COASTAL STATES CONTINUED THEIR
WRANGLE OVER THE ORGANIZATION OF THE FORUM BY WHICH TO
CONTINUE TALKS ON LL/GDS ACCESS TO THE ECONOMIC ZONE.
THE FORMER WANT AN "OPEN-ENDED" GROUP WITH THE SAME
"STATUS" AS OTHER MAJOR NEGOTIATING GROUPS. THE LATTER
WANT THE NANDAN GROUP (COMPOSED ONLY OF LL/GDS AND COASTAL
STATES) TO BE REVIVED. (THE SOVIETS SUPPORTED OPEN-
ENDED GROUPS.) IN AN INTERESTING COMMENT, POLAND (LL/GDS)
FLOATED THE IDEA OF AGUILAR (COMMITTEE II CHAIRMAN,
VENEZUELA) AS A POSSIBLE "MEDIATOR" IN THE LL/GDS--
COASTAL STATES NEGOTIATIONS. A COMPROMISE WAS PROPOSED
BY NANDAN (FIJI) WHEREBY THERE WOULD BE ACCEPTANCE OF
THE PRINCIPLE OF "OPEN-ENDEDNESS" WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE WORKING GROUP ON THIS TOPIC CONSULTING WITH THE
MOST INTERESTED GROUPS CONCERNED. AMERASINGHE QUICKLY
GAVELLED ACCEPTANCE OF THIS PROPOSAL.

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4. A NUMBER OF STATES ASKED THAT THE PRESIDENT'S LIST
OF "HARD CORE" OUTSTANDING ISSUES NOT BE EXCLUSIVE AND
AMERASINGHE AGREED THAT HIS LIST WAS NOT EXHAUSTIVE.

5. AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON NOTED IT WAS HIGHLY ENCOURAGING
TO BE DISCUSSING THE SPECIFIC INSTRUMENTALITIES WHICH
WOULD ADDRESS THE URGENT BUSINESS OF THE CONFERENCE. HE
SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE INSERTED A
BRIEF PARAGRAPH TO THE EFFECT THAT THE THIRD COMMITTEE
COULD HOLD MEETINGS TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC MATTERS RELATING
TO POLLUTION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WHICH REQUIRE FURTHER
NEGOTIATION. INVIEW OF THE RECENT AMOCO CADIZ DISASTER
HE WAS CERTAIN MARINE POLLUTION PROBLEMS WOULD BE ON THE
MINDS OF MANY DELEGATES. THE SOVIETS FOLLOWED THE U.S.
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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-14
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CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00
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INTERVENTION WITH A REQUEST THAT THERE ALSO BE A REFERENCE
TO DISCUSSION OF THE STATUS OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE. FRANCE
SUPPORTED THE U.S. PROPOSAL TO RE-EXAMINE THE POLLUTION

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ISSUES.
6. THE PRESIDENT'S LIST OF HARD CORE ISSUES INCLUDED, AS A SINGLE TOPIC, "DELIMITATION OF MARITIME BOUNDARIES BETWEEN ADJACENT AND OPPOSITE STATES AND SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES THEREON." FRANCE, SUPPORTED BY A NUMBER OF OTHER DELEGATIONS, OPPOSED THE COMBINATION OF THE DELIMITATION AND DISPUTE SETTLEMENT ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM. THE FRENCH DELEGATE ARGUED THAT THE DELIMITATION QUESTION WAS ALREADY QUITE COMPLEX, THAT THE ADDITION TO IT OF THE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT ISSUE WOULD JUST ADD FURTHER COMPLICATION AND DIFFICULTY WITHOUT AIDING IN THE RESOLUTION OF EITHER. HE ALSO NOTED THAT BOUNDARY DISPUTE SETTLEMENT HAD HERETOFORE BEEN HANDLED IN CONNECTION WITH ALL OTHER DISPUTE SETTLEMENT QUESTIONS; HE SAW NO REASON TO SEPARATE THIS SINGLE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT ISSUE FROM THE
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REST AT THIS LATE DATE. CHILE, JOINED BY OTHERS, SUPPORTED THE PRESIDENT'S FORMULATION, CITING THE FACT THAT THE DELIMITATION ARTICLES OF THE ICNT SPECIFICALLY REFER TO DISPUTE SETTLEMENT. IT WAS ALSO MENTIONED THAT DELIMITATION AND DISPUTE SETTLEMENT HAD OFTEN ALREADY BEEN DISCUSSED TOGETHER IN COMMITTEE II. THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL FOR COMBINATION OF THE ISSUES EVENTUALLY WON A CONSENSUS.
7. IN CLOSING, AMERASINGHE PROMISED TO PREPARE A NEW PAPER ON PROCEDURES AND ORGANIZATION FOR THE GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING ON APRIL 11. RICHARDSON

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